

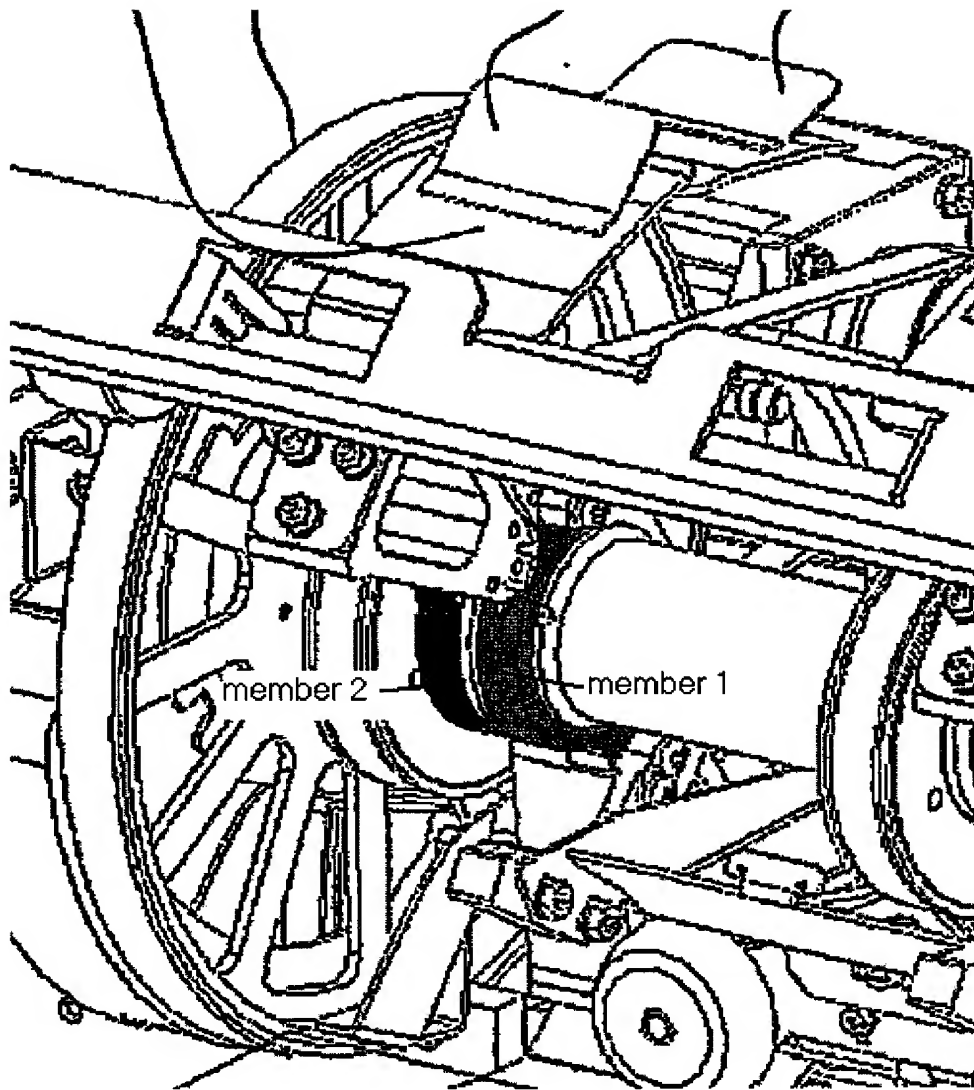
REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application. Claims 1-9 have been rejected. Claim 9 has been canceled. Claims 1, 2, and 6-8 herewith are amended. Claims presently active are claims 1-8. Favorable reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Active claims 1-8 are objected to due to informalities and rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 2 as discussed below, and has amended claim 6 in accordance with the Examiner's comments in the Office Action. These amendments are deemed to now conform the claims to the requirements of the rules.

Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended for clarity and to more distinctly claim the subject matter Applicant regards as his invention. Claim 1 now sets forth the stack abutment and stacking members. The stacking members are as described in the Declaration and Exhibit of Nov. 11, 2010, and are visible in FIG. 4 of the present application:



The stacking members are described on pg. 5 lines 8–11.

The accommodation segments have been moved closer to the top of the claim for clarity. Claim 1 now clearly sets forth that each drag element is mounted at the far end of an accommodation segment from the stacking member on which that segment is mounted, as shown in FIG. 5 (drag elements 1) and described on pg. 5 lines 13–14. Applicants believe the claim language meets the requirements of §112 as a replacement for “radial exterior side.”

Similarly, claim 2 now sets forth that the drag element(s) protrude beyond the input means with respect to the axis of rotation. This is shown in FIG. 2: drag elements 1 are farther from the axis of rotation than the ends of accommodation segments 13, 14, which are part of the input means in various embodiments.

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Applicants believe the claim language meets the requirements of §112 as a replacement for “radial exterior side.”

Claim 6 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner’s comments. Claims 7–8 have been amended to change “features” to “includes” for clarity.

Rejections

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Delfosse et al. (FR 2760733 A1). This claim has been cancelled.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Delfosse et al. in view of d’Agrella et al. (US 6,199,860). The rejection is traversed.

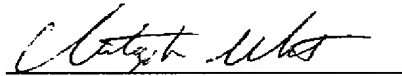
Delfosse FIG. 4 shows elements 47a, 47b attached at fixed positions on element 24. As element 24 rotates, elements 47a and 47b rotate with it. Similarly, d’Agrella FIG. 1 shows hub 26 with blades 28 protruding from it (col. 3 lines 18–21). The buckets are fixed in position along their respective shafts (lines 22–24), so that they do not rotate about the shaft (lines 27–28).

In contrast, claim 1 now sets forth that two coaxial stacking members rotate independently and are actuated separately. As described in sections 5 and 6 of the Nov. 11, 2010 Declaration, independent rotation of the stacking members and their corresponding accommodation segments and drag elements advantageously permits sheets to be stacked at higher speed than Delfosse or d’Agrella, taken singly or in combination.

Claim 1 is therefore believed to define non-obvious subject matter over Delfosse and d’Agrella, and to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2–8 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed with it.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendment, the claims are now deemed allowable and such favorable action is courteously solicited. Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned agent for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Agent at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.

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